AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): ~~Improved apparatus~~Apparatus (1) for carbamate decomposition and ammonia and carbon dioxide stripping from urea solutions, of the type comprising:

- a stripper (2) including a substantially cylindrical shell (3) closed at opposed ends by respective bottoms (A, B) and equipped in the proximity thereof with inlet and outlet openings (N1, N2, N3, N4, N5, N6) of stripping fluids, heat ~~exchange~~exchanger (4) ~~and control means and devices for the stripping step~~;

- a structure (6) for supporting said shell (3) in a vertical position;

characterized in that the shell (3) of the stripper (2) is further externally equipped with support elements (7) so that the stripper (2) can be fitted onto said structure (6) in two distinct vertical positions rotated by 180° with respect to a horizontal axis of symmetry (x-x) of said stripper.

Claim 2 (original): Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that said inlet and outlet openings (N1, N2, N3, N4, N5, N6) of the stripping fluids are symmetrical in the stripper (2) with respect to said symmetry axis (x-x).

Claim 3 (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that ~~said shell (3) is externally equipped, in the proximity of said bottoms, with support elements (7) arranged~~ said supporting elements (7) are arranged, in the proximity of said bottoms, symmetrically with respect to the symmetry axis (x-x).

Claim 4 (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that said heat ~~exchange~~exchanger (4) ~~and control means and devices of the stripping step are~~is arranged in ~~the stripper~~said cylindrical shell symmetrically with respect to said symmetry axis (x-x).

Claims 5 and 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim ~~6~~1, characterized in that said inlet and outlet openings (N1, N2, N3, N4, N5, N6) of the stripping fluids are nozzles symmetrically arranged with respect to said symmetry axis (x-x), in which respective symmetrical pairs of nozzles lay on corresponding planes (S) parallel to each other and perpendicular with respect to ~~the~~a diametral vertical plane (Q) of the stripper, the nozzles of a respective pair being symmetrical with respect to the point of intersection between said symmetry axis (x-x) and the corresponding lying plane (S) of the nozzles.

Claim 8 (withdrawn).